

TOP SECRET

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25 February 1951



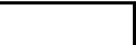
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SUMMARY

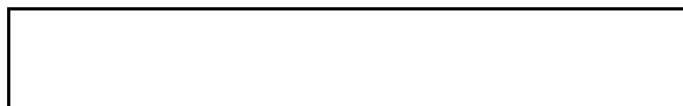
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4. Allied High Commissioners plan retaliatory canal measures (page 4).

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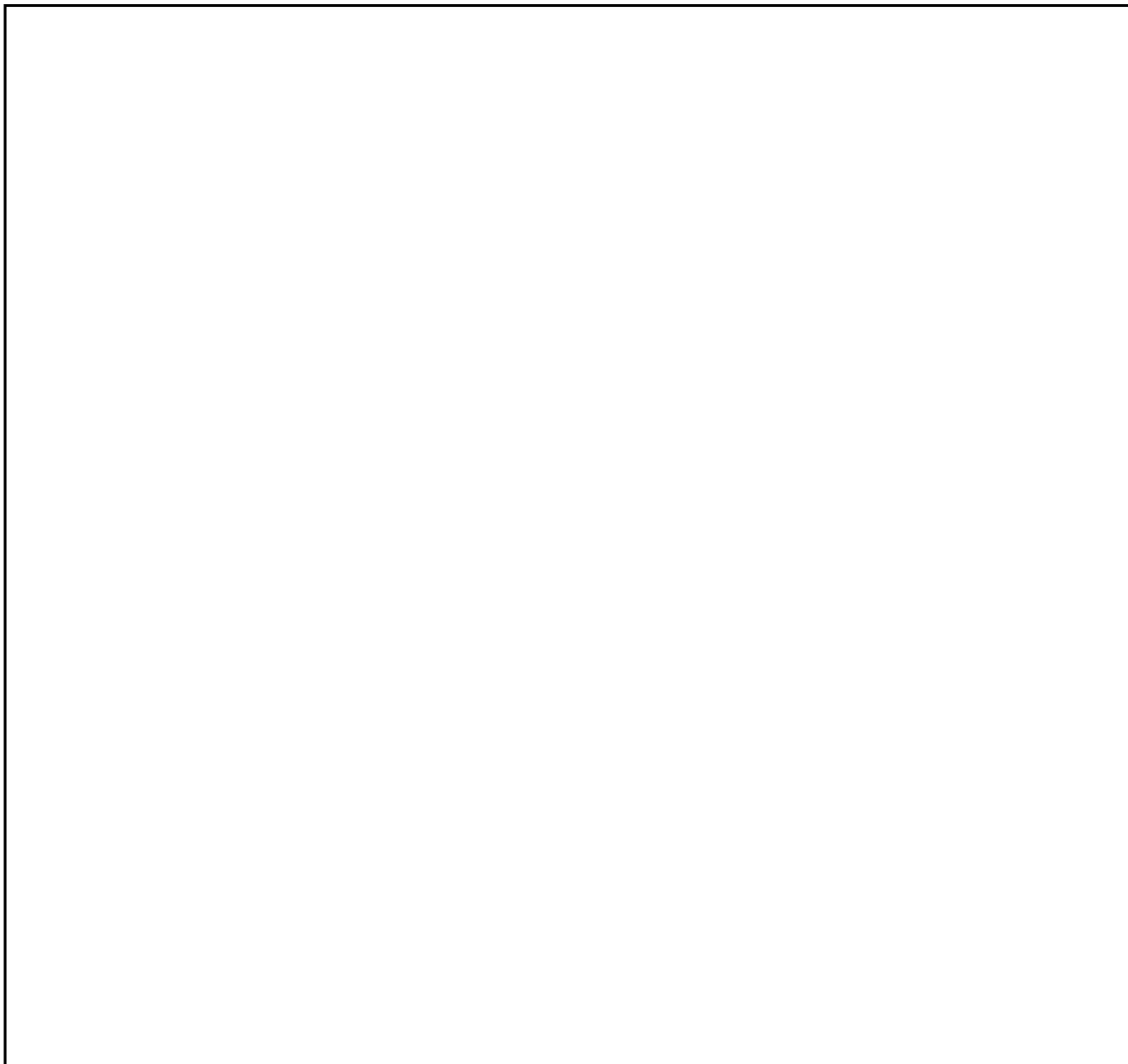
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4. Allied High Commissioners plan retaliatory canal measures:

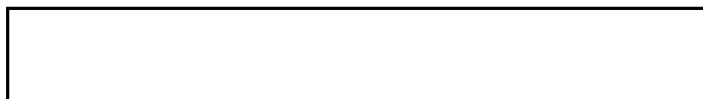
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The Council of Allied High Commissioners in Germany has authorized the Allied commanders in Berlin to impose "legal" restrictions on Soviet Zone barge traffic through the Western sectors of

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Berlin in retaliation for Soviet interference with Western traffic on interzonal waterways. The Council, however, has agreed that the commandants will not implement this decision "for several days" while a determination is being made of the genuineness of an East German offer to provide additional trains to move the coal backlogged by the closing of the Mittelland canal lock.

Comment: The Mittelland canal lock, closed "for repairs" on 11 January, was to have been opened on 28 February. Recent reports, however, have put off the opening to 1 April. Last July, Western retaliatory measures were partly responsible for the lifting of Soviet restrictions on Western barge traffic.